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RUNCORN RURAL DISTRICT

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# Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year ending 31st December

1954

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C. W. & W. STRINGER, Printers (T.U.) 145 Albert Road, Widnes.





RURAL DISTRICT AUTHORITY OF RUNCORN

# ANNUAL REPORT

1954

by

E. N. HILLMAN GRAY, L.R.C.P. & S., L.M., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health, Runcorn Urban and Rural Districts

## OFFICIALS OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT :

- (1) Medical Officer of Health Runcorn Urban and Rural Districts.
- (2) Divisional Medical Officer of Health  
Divisional School Medical Officer (Runcorn Division)

E. N. HILLMAN GRAY, L.R.C.P. & S., L.M., D.P.H.  
Telephone No. : Frodsham 2186

## SANITARY INSPECTORS AND MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTORS :

D. BOOTHMAN, M.S.I.A., Senior Sanitary Inspector  
National Certificate in Building  
Certified Sanitary Inspector (R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B.)  
Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods (R.S.I.)  
Offices : Public Health Department, Castle Park, Frodsham  
Telephone No. : Frodsham 2186  
Sub-Office : 22 Orchard Street, Stockton Heath  
Telephone No. : Stockton Heath 1024  
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G. F. SIXSMITH, Additional Sanitary Inspector  
Certified Sanitary Inspector (R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B.)  
Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods (R.S.I.)  
Housing Management Certificate (The Institute of Housing)  
Diploma in General Hygiene Advanced (R.I.P.H. & H.)

## CLERK/PUPIL SANITARY INSPECTORS :

E. H. PEET, Certified Sanitary Inspector (R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B.)  
November, 1954.  
G. W. BATE

CLERICAL DUTIES :

MRS. D. COWAP

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AN APPEAL TO ALL CONCERNED, *ESPECIALLY*  
TO VOLUNTARY SOCIETIES, IS AGAIN MADE  
TO MAKE *FULL* USE OF THIS REPORT;  
DISCUSSION GROUPS, ETC., IN HEALTH  
EDUCATION SHOULD BE ARRANGED FOR IN  
THE INTERESTS OF PUBLIC HEALTH AT  
*FREQUENT* INTERVALS

SPECIAL ATTENTION IS DRAWN TO  
APPENDIX “A”

# RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF RUNCORN, 1954

---

From 25th May, 1954

*Chairman of the Council :*

COUNCILLOR Mrs. KATHLEEN I. DEWES, J.P.

*Vice-Chairman of the Council :*

COUNCILLOR HARRY JACKSON

*Health Committee :*

COUNCILLOR D. L. DAVIES, Chairman	
COUNCILLOR R. E. PAYTON, C.C., Vice-Chairman	
Councillor W. H. CAPPER, J.P.	Councillor A. JONES
„ H. R. DONE	„ J. W. KIRKHAM
„ H. HELSBY	„ H. PEAKE, J.P., C.C.
„ H. HILL	„ Mrs. E. STANSFIELD, J.P.
„ J. HUNT	„ E. G. WHITE
Councillor G. WILLIAMS	

and Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council

## OFFICERS :

*Solicitor/Clerk of the Council :*

MR. R. PATRICK WILLIAMS, Frodsham

*Engineer and Surveyor :*

Mr. B. PRESTON, B.Sc., A.M.I.C.E., M.I.Mun.E., M.R. San.I.  
Frodsham

## INTRODUCTION

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF RUNCORN

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1954.

*Population* : There is an increase of 460 in the Registrar General's estimate of the total population from 35,800 in 1953 to 36,260 in 1954.

*Birth Rate* : The Birth Rate per thousand of the population showed a slight decrease being 13.59 in 1954 by comparison of 13.63 in 1953. The Rate for England and Wales was 15.2 per thousand.

*Death Rate* : The Death Rate for 1954 was 12.58 per thousand of the population compared with 10.28 in 1953. The rates for England and Wales were 11.3 in 1954 and 11.4 in 1953. The total number of Deaths in the Runcorn Rural District in 1954 was 410 compared with 368 in 1953.

*Infantile Mortality Rate* : The Death Rate of all Infants under One year of age per thousand live births was 24.34 as compared with 22.54 in 1953. The corresponding figure for England and Wales was 25.5 in 1954.

*Incidence of Infectious Disease* : The incidence of Infectious Disease was less than the previous year. 355 cases were notified as compared with 560 during 1953.

"THE COMMONSENSE PREVENTIVE MEASURES AGAINST  
DISEASE" :

I feel that the greatest importance should be attached to the above, and herewith indicate in "APPENDIX 'A'" for guidance a resumé of the Preventive Measures which I recommend should be taken by all concerned.

*Housing* : The number of houses owned by the Council at the end of the year was 1,210; total number of new houses erected by the Council during the year was 153. The total number of inhabited houses as at 31st December, 1954, was 11,262.

*Unfit Houses* : My Council are preparing a list of unfit houses, as called for by the appropriate Ministry; this should be ready in the Autumn of 1955.

*Labour Saving Devices* : Such devices as, for example, Pressure Cookers, Electric Washing Machines, "Suction" Cleaners, etc., have proved a boon to many hard-working Mothers, etc., in the home; these, plus for example, the use of Day Nurseries, have given many women, who sometimes work long hours, seven days a week, essential rest and time for leisure, so improving their health and outlook on life.

*Sanitary Circumstances in the Area* : The details under this Section have been compiled by Mr. D. Boothman, M.S.I.A., Senior Sanitary Inspector.

ANNUAL REPORT—DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for the year-ending 31st December, 1954, (by agreement with the Cheshire County Council and my Local Council) — This Report is included as an Appendix "B" and attached hereto.

The co-operation and help of all concerned outside my offices, in the Public Health Department and other departments, has been greatly appreciated by me in the carrying out of my various duties—without the "TEAM SPIRIT" it would be difficult to obtain results.

Yours obediently,

E. N. HILLMAN GRAY, L.R.C.P. & S., L.M., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health.



## SECTION A

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

(a)	Area (in acres) ... ..	45,765
(b)	Estimated population (Registrar-General) ... ..	36,260
(c)	Number of inhabited houses (end 1954) according to the Rate Books ... ..	11,262
(d)	Rateable Value of the District (end 1954) ...	£233,155
(e)	Sum represented by one penny rate (approx.) Net	£924
(f)	Density of Population. Number of persons per acre (estimated population) ... ..	.79
(g)	Average number of persons per inhabited house (estimated population) ... ..	3.22

## SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Agriculture and dairy farming are the chief industries of the district; other industries are tanneries, electric cable, electric fittings and steel tube works, flour mills and jam works. Sand quarrying is being carried on in the district, chiefly at Whitley and Moore.

Parts of the district are mainly residential.

*Unemployment*—Exact statistics are not available for this area as the figures obtained by the local offices of the Ministry of Labour related to the areas served by such offices and these areas are not identical with the Runcorn Rural District. The incidence of unemployment, however, was low in the area.

Many of the inhabitants are employed in industrial areas outside the district.

*Children's Homes*—There is a National Children's Home at Frodsham (195 children), one open-air Convalescent School for Jewish Children at Norley.

## VITAL STATISTICS

			<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Live Births—Legitimate ... ..	...	...	481	259	222
Illegitimate ... ..	...	...	12	6	6
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
			493	265	228
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... 13.59



			<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Still Births—Legitimate	...	...	14	6	8
Illegitimate	...	...	0	0	0
			—	—	—
			14	6	8

Rate of Still Births per 1,000 total (Live and Still births) ... 27.62

Deaths ... *Total* 410 *M.* 209 *F.* 201

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... 12.58

*Deaths from Puerperal Causes*

(Heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :

No. 30 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ... Nil

*Death Rate of Infants Under One Year of Age*

All Infants per 1,000 live births (12 deaths) ... Death Rate 24.34

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ... 24.96

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ... 0.00

*Particulars of any Unusual or Excessive Mortality during the year which has received or required comment*

The causes of the highest mortality were :

Cancer ... 59 (*Vide* Registrar-General)

Heart Disease ... 76 ..

Heart Disease was prevalent in persons over 65 years of age. some cases may have been due to the effects of e.g., Rheumatism in childhood—this is being further investigated under the auspices of the Ministry of Health (lack of vitamin C, *gland deficiency*, etc.).

Further remarks on Cancer see page 37 (i.e., further research, early treatment, etc.).

COMPARISON RATES

<i>Year</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Birth Rate</i>	<i>Death Rate</i>	<i>Infantile Mortality Rate</i>
1944	33,000	18.24	10.55	34.54
1945	31,710	15.50	11.07	32.58
1946	32,760	16.90	11.69	32.43
1947	32,930	16.85	11.93	48.60
1948	34,230	15.37	11.08	36.13
1949	34,550	11.75	11.92	27.66
1950	35,580	13.91	10.72	20.20
1951	35,510	13.83	13.89	48.88
1952	35,520	13.86	11.38	20.32
1953	35,800	13.63	10.28	22.54
1954	36,260	13.59	12.58	24.34

(Population figures for 1944, estimate only)

A table on page 34 gives the Birth Rate, Death Rate and analysis of mortality during the year 1954 and comparisons with England and Wales.

There were 293 deaths of persons over 65 years of age.

			<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>
From 65-69	Number of Deaths	...	18	21	39
„ 70-79	„ „ „	...	77	58	135
„ 80-89	„ „ „	...	35	69	104
„ 90-99	„ „ „	...	5	9	14
„ 100 years	„ „ „	...	—	1	1

#### SUMMARY OF DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE

- 1 (a) Hydrops Toetalis ... ... Female aged 5 minutes  
 1 (a) Meningitis (b) Mingo-myelocele ... Female aged 2 weeks  
 1 (a) Heart failure (b) Hydrocephalus  
 (c) Spina Bifida ... ... Male aged 2 weeks  
 1 (a) Atelectasis (b) Prematurity ... Male aged 1 day  
 1 (a) Prematurity (b) Mingocele ... Male aged 9 hours  
 1 (a) Maconium Peritonitis (b) Associated  
 with an inperforate Anus. 2 (1)  
 Patent Arterial Ventricular Septa  
 (11) Mongolism ... ... Female aged 1 day  
 1 (a) Intracranial haemorrhage ... ... Female aged 1 day  
 1 (a) Cerebral Anoxia (b) Cord round the  
 neck II Prematurity (35 weeks)... Male aged 1 hour  
 1 (a) Kernicterus (b) Icterus Gravis Neo-  
 natorum (c) Rhesus incompatibility Female aged 5 days  
 1 (a) Meningitis (b) Myelomeningocele ... Female aged 1 week  
 1 (a) Haemorrhagic disease of the New  
 born ... ... Male aged 6 days  
 1 (a) Oesophageal-tracheal fistula ... Male aged 12 hours

#### PREVENTION OF ANY UNUSUAL OR EXCESSIVE MORTALITY—CHILDREN

Treatment in a General Hospital or an Infectious Disease Hospital, etc., is available for all such cases if any Doctor decides that treatment will benefit, and the patient is fit to be moved. Premature births are specially treated in Hospital or Nursing Homes. District Nurses assist in nursing at home (via the patient's own doctor).

The above is in addition to Health Education, Welfare Schemes and Clinics, etc.

### SECTION B.

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

##### 1. *Public Health Officers*

The names and qualifications, districts, addresses and telephone



numbers are given at the beginning of the Report.

## 2. *Laboratory Facilities*

The Biological Institute of Messrs. Evans Medical Supplies is established in Runcorn. Query Anthrax cases can be examined here and necessary treatment given as required; prior to any Hospital treatment.

With the facilities given by the Public Health Laboratory, Hamilton Square, Birkenhead, Public Health Laboratory, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, the Public Health Laboratory, Monsall Hospital, Newton Heath, Manchester, and the Public Health Laboratories at Warrington and Chester Royal Infirmarys, also various General Hospital Laboratories, all concerned will now be able to make fuller arrangements for pathological overhauls so *essential* in certain cases. It is hoped that this extended service will give all concerned further facilities in the investigation of infectious disease and disease generally (e.g., by pathological overhauls).

Milk is sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Hamilton Square, Birkenhead.

V.D. specimens are sent to the laboratories mentioned above, as required.

## SECTION C.

### 1. *Water*

(i) The water supply of the area has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity, with the exception of isolated farms and houses not on a mains supply.

(ii) Mains supplies and results of chemical analyses and bacteriological examinations are as follows. Parishes refer to the main areas; outlying portions of parishes may be connected to other mains.

Alvanley and Helsby—by the Council from Helsby Wells.

Dutton, Kingsley, Norley, Preston Brook and Sutton—by the Council from Liverpool (Vyrnwy) bulk supplies.

Frodsham, Manley, Antrobus and Whitley—by the Council from Warrington Corporation bulk supplies.

Stockton Heath, Grappenhall, Walton, Appleton, Stretton, Moore, Daresbury—by Warrington Corporation.

Halton and Clifton—by Runcorn and District Water Board.

Aston and Norton—by private estate mains, the bulk supply being Liverpool (Vyrnwy).

Budworth—by the Council from Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board bulk supplies.

Chemical Analyses				Helsby Well (no treatment) to Alvanley, Helsby.	Warrington Harrol Edge to Frodsham Manley.	Liverpool Vyrnwy to Aston, Dutton, Kingsley, Norley, Norton, Preston, Brook, Sutton.	Runcorn and District Water Board to Halton.	Warrington Vyrnwy mixed to Stockton Heath Area and most other Parishes.	Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board to Budworth Village and Ball Lane, Kingsley.
Date	..	..	..	21.9.54	15.11.50	15.5.50	15.11.50.	20.3.51.	6.3.51.—
Appearance	..	..	..	Clear and Colourless Nil	Clear and Colourless Nil	Clear and Colourless Nil	Clear and slight yellow Nil	Clear and Colourless Nil	Clear and Colourless Nil
Odour	..	..	..	pH 7.50	pH 7.0	pH 6.3	pH 6.4	pH 7.0	pH 7.1
Re-action	..	..	..						
				Parts per million.					
Total solids	..	..	..	309	188	38	50	277	286
Nitrogen as free and saline ammonia	..	..	..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Nil
Nitrogen as albuminoid ammonia	..	..	..	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.00	0.005
Nitrogen as nitrites	..	..	..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Nitrogen as nitrates	..	..	..	2.75	2.25	0.00	0.00	5.25	4.8
Chlorides as Cl.	..	..	..	42	30	10	9	29	24
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in four hours at 27° C.	..	..	..	0.00	0.06	2.48	3.03	0.03	0.16
Total hardness	..	..	..	201.5	130	25	30	140	170
Temporary hardness	..	..	..	169	96	6	12	100	104
Permanent hardness	..	..	..	32.5	34	19	18	40	66
Alkalinity as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	..	..	..	169	96	6	12	100	104
Free chlorine	..	..	..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Poisonous metals	..	..	..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION:—									
Date	..	..	..	23.11.54	6.7.54.	12.10.54.	18.10.54.	14.9.54.	27.7.54.
Probable number of coliform bacilli 100 m.l.	..	..	..	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	Nil
% of above faecal coli	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Report	..	..	..	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory



*Analyst's Opinion*

Helsby 21.9.54—The chemical analysis of this water is satisfactory.

Warrington Harrol Edge 15.11.50—The chemical analysis of this water is satisfactory.

Liverpool Vyrnwy 15.5.50—The chemical analysis of this water is satisfactory.

Runcorn and District Water Board 15.11.50—The chemical analysis of this water is satisfactory.

Warrington Vyrnwy mixed 20.3.51—The water is of a high degree of organic purity.

Mid and South-East Cheshire Water Board 6.3.51—The chemical analysis of this water is satisfactory.

(iii) Private water supplies are bacteriologically examined at least once per year. Where, as a result of such sampling, the supplies have been established as unsatisfactory, Notices advising that the water be boiled or chlorinated before drinking, dietetic and dairy purposes are sent and repeated quarterly to the owners and occupier.

Where farms and farm cottages are concerned, the owners are strongly advised to obtain a mains supply with the assistance of the Cheshire Agricultural Committee under the Agricultural (Misc. Prov.) Act, 1944. Sec. 5.

Mains extensions were carried out as follows :—

1. Manley/Kingsley—Birch Hill to Wanlows Well.

2. To new Housing Sites.

Three dwelling houses were provided with mains supplies in the year.





## (2) *Drainage and Sewage*

Kingsley and Norley—A draft scheme was submitted to the Ministry which now awaits a local investigation.

Frodsham—Hares' Lane Pumping Station, a draft scheme is in course of preparation for submission to the Ministry.

Stockton Heath—A scheme to overcome flooding was completed.

Other matters requiring attention in the future are :—

1. Helsby—new intercepting sewer and sewage disposal works extensions.
2. Great Budworth—sewers and sewage disposal works.
3. Stretton—sewage disposal improvements.
4. Acton Grange—works enlargements.
5. Moore—sewage disposal improvements.

When septic tanks are installed it is important that *adequate filtration or subsoil irrigation* is provided to prevent pollution of water-courses and ditches. *In addition, the septic tanks should be maintained and desludged at regular intervals.* Many inspections have been carried out in connection with existing installations and in giving advice on new proposed works.

Three drainage systems of existing properties were connected to public sewers.

## (3) *Rivers and Streams*

Pollution of ditches and streams remain a problem owing to the erection of new houses, improved sanitary appliances to existing houses and improved milk and dairy technique in parishes without sewers. Private owners are advised on the best type of septic tanks and filters for their property. Where such properties are in groups, the only final satisfactory solution is the provision of a sewer and sewage disposal works. Liquer from cowsheds presents a particularly difficult problem where it is not collected and returned to the land as manure.

A cesspool emptying vehicle is used for desludging septic and settling tanks on both Council and Private property. It is available  $1\frac{1}{2}$  days per week, the other days being employed in collecting night-soil. This hardly meets the needs of the district and it is desirable that this service be increased, possibly by the provision of a further vehicle so that all septic tanks in the district could receive routine attention.

For private work the Council charge 10/- per hour with a minimum charge of 10/- and require the applicant to have the access covers of the tanks loosened and opened up in readiness.

Where plans are submitted to the Engineer and Surveyor involving drainage systems not connected to a public sewer, the observations of this department have been sought on the efficiency of the proposed drainage disposal.

Pretreated effluents from two tanneries at Grappenhall are received into the Council's sewer which has improved the condition of the stream previously receiving the drainage, some pollution still occurs occasionally owing to the failure of the tannery plant to deal with all the effluent in the settling tanks.

The pollution of the non-tidal section of the Manchester Ship Canal continues, but probably owing to the lack of any continued period of warm weather during the year, no complaints were received.

#### (4) *Closet Accommodation*

Forty-two conversions to the water carriage system were carried out. Where this has been done voluntarily by the owners, the Council has, when requested, paid a grant up to £15 provided that where a public sewer is not available, the owners will at their own expense connect to a public sewer when it becomes available.

#### (5) *Public Cleansing*

This is carried out by the Engineer and Surveyor under direct labour. Disposal is by tipping, *which should be "controlled"*. To assist in achieving full controlled tipping, small tips which are used infrequently and which cannot be supervised continually, should be, where possible, discontinued.

The cesspool emptying vehicle is adapted for the collection of the contents of pail closets and enables the collection and disposal of the nightsoil to be carried out with the minimum of nuisance.

*D.D.T. or Gammexane types of insecticide should be used on tips as and when required, especially in warm weather.*

#### (6) *Sanitary Inspection of the Area*

The following tabular statement is furnished by the Senior Sanitary Inspector under Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Inspectors' (outside London) Regulations, 1935, or Article 19 of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1926 :—



Nature of Inspections	No. of Inspections	Informal Statu- tory	
		Notices	Notices
Dwelling Houses (Housing Acts) ....	549	11	6
Dwelling Houses (No. of Inmates and queries re Council house applications) ...	166	—	—
Dwelling Houses (Public Health Act) ...	652	149	8
Defects in above :			
(a) Roofs, gutters and rain-water pipes ...	—	67	4
(b) Sanitary fittings ...	—	12	1
(c) Other defects ...	—	82	3
Schools ...	3	—	—
Moveable Dwellings ...	233	11	—
Water Supplies (Samples) ...	70	—	—
(Other Inspections) ...	18	—	—
Closet Conversions ...	133	—	—
Cesspools and Septic Tanks ...	328	25	6
Sewer Connections ...	14	—	—
Sewers and Drains ...	202	19	—
Colour Tests ...	30	—	—
Ditches, Brooks ...	82	15	—
Refuse Collection and Disposal ...	80	—	—
Streets, Yards and Passages ...	8	25	—
Foul Accumulations ...	4	1	—
Tipping on Waste Land ...	157	—	—
Vermin (Rats and Mice) ...	142	—	—
(Insects) ...	24	—	—
Piggeries and keeping of animals ...	50	1	—
Dairies and Milk Retailers ...	22	1	—
Milk Samples ...	68	—	—
Factories and Workshops ...	52	2	—
Shops and Foodstores ...	136	6	—
Bakehouses ...	15	2	—
Meat and Food Inspection ...	95	—	—
Slaughter Houses ...	124	—	—
Canal Boat ...	—	—	—
Zymotic Inquiries ...	63	—	—
Visits to Contacts and Schools ...	132	—	—
Mortuaries ...	11	—	—
Petrol Stores ...	57	1	—
Hutted Camps ...	26	—	—
Miscellaneous ...	103	2	—
Health (Divisional matters, etc.) ...	18	—	—
Interviews with Builders, Owners and Agents	262	—	—
Ice-Cream Samples ...	40	—	—
Smoke Nuisance ...	9	2	—
Soil Samples ...	21	—	—
TOTALS	4199	434	28

## SHOPS

(7) <i>Shops Act, 1950, Food and Drugs Act, 1938</i>					
No. employing persons	...	...	...	...	129
No. employing members of own family only	...	...	...	...	196
					<hr/>
					325
					<hr/>

(8) *Smoke Abatement*

The Council remains a constituent Authority with the Manchester Regional Smoke Abatement Committee and makes a contribution to its fund for providing special Smoke Inspectors.

Action by the appropriate Government Departments in supplying smokeless fuels *at a reasonable cost*, etc., for the house, factory, etc., would go along way in reducing the nuisance, in addition *proper stoking*.

Noxious odours were at times noted in the district arising from certain large industrial works outside the district, when the wind is in a certain direction, fortunately not the prevailing wind. The matter has been referred to H.M. Alkali Inspector (Factory Inspector).

A conference was called between the works concerned and the representatives and officials of the Local Authorities.

Some improvement has been effected.

(9) *Rats and Mice Destruction*

The Senior Sanitary Inspector acts as Rodent Officer - one fulltime rodent operative is employed. The Council co-operates with the Cheshire Agricultural Executive Committee who carry out rodent destruction on agricultural premises.

Treatment was offered to industrial premises at a charge of cost of labour and materials. Some of these, schools, and two cooking depots, receive treatment as required on this basis - 11 others preferred to enter into contracts as before. Dwelling houses receive free treatment unless the infestation is due to lack of hygiene or the unsatisfactory keeping of animals or poultry, in which case a charge is made. Warfarin with an oatmeal base was used with satisfactory results.

Some 771 properties were inspected and of these 452 were treated.

The Council has 17 tips, sewage outfalls and properties which receive treatment as required. The sewer systems in Appleton, Daresbury, Frodsham, Grappenhall, Halton, Hatton, Helsby, Moore, Stockton Heath, Sutton and Walton, were test baited and infestation was found in Frodsham, Halton, Helsby and Stockton Heath, to a limited degree. The infested portions received two maintenance treatments.



FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948  
 Home Office Form 572 (Revised)

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health, including  
 inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors :

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written notices</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities . . . . .	28	14	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority . . . . .	89	34	3	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) . . . . .	23	4	—	—
TOTAL . . . . .	140	52	3	—

## 2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.) .. .. .	3	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2.) .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.) .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.) .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.) .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.) .. .. .	1	1	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient .. .. .	10	9	—	6	4
(b) Unsuitable or defective .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes .. .. .	5	3	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outworkers) .. .. .	19	15	—	6	—
TOTAL .. .. .					

All factories are entered in the register kept for the purpose.  
 Number of Outworkers — 11, employed in the making of wearing apparel and curtains. No action taken during the year.

(11) *Swimming Baths*

There are no Public Swimming Baths in the District.

(12) *Moveable Dwellings*

Close supervision was maintained on camping sites and individual moveable dwellings. In addition to licences under the Public Health Act, moveable dwellings require approval under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, which gives better control as regards amenity to the district than the Public Health Act. The Council have adopted the recommendations of the County Planning Officer on new camping sites which include the following :—

“The use of the said property as a camping ground shall mean its use as pitches for :—

(i) tents covering an area not exceeding 100 sq. ft. each,  
or

(ii) caravans on wheels specially built for use as living accommodation and maintained in a fit state to be drawn or propelled on their own wheels on the public highway. No railway carriage, tram-car, omnibus body or other similar article, whether on wheels or not and howsoever adapted, shall be permitted to be stationed or erected on the said property.”

It is recommended that special attention is given to *overcrowding* in “caravans” etc., also whether structurally they are fit for human habitation.

## CAMPING SITES.

Number of licences in operation, Public Health Act, 1936,  
Section 269 :—

	Year of 1954
(a) For Camping Sites ... ..	17
(b) For fixed type dwellings sited on above Camping Sites ... ..	8
(c) For other individual moveable dwellings ... ..	61
Estimated maximum number of Campers resident in the area at one time, during the summer season, 1954	602

(13) *Insect Pests*

One house was found to be infested with bed bugs, successful eradication was carried out with D.D.T.

Other infestations dealt with were ants, wasp's nests and cock-roaches.

(14) *Schools*

The water supply is good and adequate, but repairs and improvements are required at many schools. Certain urgent maintenance



repairs were asked for and carried out. Automatic flushing of urinals is required in some cases, also attention to dusty, badly surfaced playgrounds; *pail closets should be fly-proof.*

The County Medical Officer of Health, Cheshire, has reported on schools ( in and outside) direct to the Director of Education, C.C.C.

(15) *Mortuaries*

The mortuaries controlled by the Council at Frodsham and Stockton Heath are in a satisfactory condition.

## SECTION D—HOUSING

### 1. *New Houses brought into the Rate Book in 1954*

Number of new houses erected by Local Authority	... ..	153
Number of new houses erected by other bodies and persons		118

TOTAL	... ..	271
-------	--------	-----

Parishes	New Houses erected 1954		No. of inhabited houses in Rural District	
	Pri- vate	Local Authority	31st December, 1954	
Alvanley	...	...	91	
Antrobus	...	...	226	
Appleton	...	50	85	1206
Aston	...	...	72	
Budworth (Great)	...	1	...	119
Daresbury	...	2	...	76
Dutton	...	...	96	
Frodsham	...	9	16	1626
Grappenhall	...	17	...	1764
Halton	...	2	...	451
Hatton	...	...	...	100
Helsby	...	17	22	887
Kingsley	...	6	2	369
Manley	...	...	10	154
Moore	...	...	6	174
Norley	...	2	...	287
Norton	...	...	...	41
Preston Brook	...	1	12	135
Stockton Heath	...	7	...	2318
Stretton	...	1	...	146

Sutton	...	...	...	—	—	229
Walton	...	...	...	3	—	514
Whitley	...	...	...	—	—	181
TOTALS				118	153	11262

## 2. Housing

Further limited progress was made in dealing with some of the bad houses where these houses become vacant, or the tenants were rehoused by the Council. A survey was commenced in order to list the unfit houses which should be dealt with in the next 5 years as required by Circular 55/54.

Improvement grants were made to four applicants all owner/occupiers during the year.

Houses in this district with vacant possession still sell well above the investment value for letting, consequently the improvement grant is not attractive to owners of tenanted houses.

Certificates of Disrepair were requested and granted in 13 cases.

## CLEARANCE AREAS AND INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1954

*Part A — Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1936) — Nil*

*Part B — Houses not included in Clearance Areas*

	Number of Houses    Persons displaced			
DEMOLITION AND CLOSING ORDERS				
(1) Housing Act, 1936				
(a) Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11	5	13		
(b) Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Section 11, and still in force ...        ...	12	36		
(c) Parts of buildings closed (Section 12) ...	—	—		
(2) Housing Act, 1949				
(a) Closing Orders made under Section 3(1)	—	—		
(b) Demolition Orders determined and Closing Orders substituted under Section 3(2)	—	—		
(3) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953 Closing Orders made under Section 10(1)        .        .        .        .        .        .			—	—

		Number of Houses*
REPAIRS	Informal Action	
(4)	Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Public Health or Housing Acts ...	24
	Action under Statutory Powers	
(5)	Public Health Acts	
	Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	
	(a) by owners ... ..	—
	(b) by local authority in default of owners ... ..	—
(6)	Housing Act, 1936	
	Number of houses made fit after service of formal notices (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16)	
	(a) by owners ... ..	1
	(b) by local authority in default of owners ... ..	—

*Note* : \*A defective house remedied more than once during the period should be included once only.

### 3. *Emergency Accommodation.*

Further requisitioned properties have been released and now only one remains.

The converted ex-Army huts at Townfield Lane Camp, Frodsham and Red Brow Camp, Preston Brook, provide emergency accommodation for 18 family units, but it is intended to rehouse these families as soon as Council houses are available in the appropriate districts.

### 4. *Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding.*

		1953	1954
(a)	i. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... ..	9	10
	ii. Number of families dwelling therein ... ..	17	18
	iii. Number of persons dwelling therein ... ..	61	65
(b)	i. Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ..	7	6
(c)	i. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ..	8	5
	ii. Number of persons concerned in such cases	58	32
(d)	i. Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have become overcrowded after the Local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... ..	Nil	Nil



## SECTION E

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. *Milk and Dairies.*

Numbers on the registers are :—

Dairies	...	...	...	4
Distributors	...	...	...	21
Dealers	...	...	...	10
Supplementary	...	...	...	10

Samples taken were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Birkenhead, and comprise the following :—

	No. of samples	No. of samples unsatis- factory
Methylene Blue (keeping quality raw milks) ...	67	4*
Phosphatase (Heat Treated Pasteurised Milks) ...	36	—
Turbidity (Heat Treated Sterilised Milks) ...	5	—
Of these samples number biological examination for the presence of Tubercle Baccilli ...	20	—
Number found to contain Tubercle Bacilli ...	—	—

\* *Necessary action was taken to remedy these.*

2. *Food Premises in Area.*

Grocer	...	...	...	...	58
Grocer and General Stores	...	...	...	...	42
Greengrocer	...	...	...	...	18
Sweets	...	...	...	...	29
Butcher	...	...	...	...	27
Chemist	...	...	...	...	7
Fish and Chips	...	...	...	...	10
Wet Fish	...	...	...	...	6
Tripe	...	...	...	...	1
Cooked Meats	...	...	...	...	1
Cafe	...	...	...	...	16
Cafe with Shop	...	...	...	...	15
Licensed Premises with Catering	...	...	...	...	16
Confectioners	{	...	...	...	17
Baker	{	...	...	...	
					263

Number of Food premises registered under Section 14, of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 :—

Ice-Cream—Sale only	...	...	...	73
Manufacture Hot Mix	...	...	...	2
Manufacture Cold Mix	...	...	...	3
				<hr/>
			TOTAL	78
				<hr/>
Preserved Foods—Jam Factory	...	...	...	1
Sausage & Cooked Meats	...	...	...	21
Meat Pies	...	...	...	10
Fish & Chips	...	...	...	9
				<hr/>
			TOTAL	41
				<hr/>

115 Inspections were made at Registered premises.

No special educational activity was undertaken, such as, clean food guilds or lectures on food hygiene, but advice is given as and when required in the course of inspections.

### 3. *Ice-cream.*

The hygiene of premises and personnel was satisfactory. Manufacture is only on a small scale 2 by hot mix and 3 by cold mix. All other registrations are for sale only.

Samples were taken which were graded as follows :—

Ice-Cream—Grade 1	...	...	...	28
Grade 2	...	...	...	0
Grade 3	...	...	...	0
Grade 4	...	...	...	0
Ice Lollies—Satisfactory	...	...	...	12

### 4. *Meat and Other Foods.*

The Sanitary Inspectors act as Meat Inspectors.

During the year visits made in respect of Meat and Food Inspections were 95 in shops and 124 in slaughterhouses.

No Meat Marketing Scheme under Part III of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, is in force in this district.

Three Slaughterhouses were licensed at the end of the rationing period, one only is in regular use.

The quantity of food condemned in shops during the year was :—

					lbs.
Beef—home killed	...	...	...	...	126
Beef—imported	...	...	...	...	300
Pork	...	...	...	...	474
Canned Meat Products	...	...	...	...	61
Canned Fruit Products	...	...	...	...	455
Canned Fish Products	...	...	...	...	3
Canned Vegetables	...	...	...	...	54
Milk	...	...	...	...	84
Ham—imported	..	...	..	...	47
Jam	...	...	...	...	19
Pickles	...	...	...	...	22
Tinned Puddings	...	...	...	...	44
Soup	...	...	...	...	6
					<hr/> 1695 <hr/>

## Carcases inspected and carcases or parts condemned :

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	64	29	11	337	86
Number inspected	64	29	11	337	86
All diseases except Tuberculosis :					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	8	4	Nil	9	2
Percentage of the No. inspected, affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	14.06%	13.79%	Nil	2.67%	3.49%
Tuberculosis only :					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the No. inspected affected with Tuberculosis	4.68%	1%	Nil	Nil	Nil

*Meat and Edible Offals Condemned.*

The amount of meat and edible offals condemned was :—

For tuberculosis	...	...	62 lbs.
For other causes	...	...	882 lbs.



### Condemned Food Disposal.

Meat and other foods are stained with a green dye and disposed of by burying deep in the Council's Refuse Tips.

### 5. *Adulteration, etc. Food and Drugs Adulteration Act.*

I am indebted to the Chief Inspector of the Cheshire County Council for the following report of the work carried out by his department in the Runcorn Rural District under the Food and Drugs Act during the year 1954.

Samples obtained during the year ended 31st December, 1954.

Name of Sample	No. obtained	Number adulterated or not up to the re- cognised standard of quality.
Bread Procea ... ..	1	—
Butter ... ..	1	—
Cream ... ..	2	—
Coffee ... ..	3	—
Condensed Milk ... ..	2	—
Camphorated Oil ... ..	1	—
Cheese ... ..	1	—
Currants ... ..	1	—
Cut Peel ... ..	1	—
Cream Sandwich ... ..	1	—
Christmas Pudding ... ..	2	—
Coffee Sugar ... ..	1	—
Dripping ... ..	1	—
Dessicated Coconut ... ..	1	—
Diabetic Drinking Chocolate ... ..	1	—
Fish Paste ... ..	1	—
Ground Ginger ... ..	1	—
Honey ... ..	1	—
Jam ... ..	2	—
Lemon Curd ... ..	2	—
Lemon Squash ... ..	1	—
Lard ... ..	1	—
Milk ... ..	51	2
Meat Paste ... ..	1	—
Mint Jelly ... ..	1	—
Mincemeat ... ..	2	—
Orange Squash ... ..	2	—
Pepper, white ... ..	1	—
Raisins ... ..	1	—
Salmon Spread ... ..	1	—
	89	2

*Particulars of Non-Standard Samples*

<i>Sample</i>	<i>Result of Analysis</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1. Milk	5% deficient in fat.	Retail sale of bottle. Seller cautioned.
2. Milk	4.7% deficient in non-fatty solids.	Retail sale of bottle No action as sample was certified as "genuine but abnormal".

6. *Shell-Fish (Molluscan).*

There are no Shell-fish beds in the area. Shell-fish are on sale regularly in the district. If Shell-fish, Mussels or Shrimps are eaten locally, they should be well cooked and should come from Government controlled beds.

7. *Watercress.*

Only that as grown on properly controlled beds with a pure water supply and labelled should be sold and bought, otherwise there is a danger of intestinal disease spreading.

## SECTION F

### PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The prevailing varieties of notifiable disease during the year were mainly confined to Measles and Scarlet Fever.

1. *Immunisation and Vaccination.*

Whooping Cough vaccine can now be given to infants at an early age (approx. 3 months) the results so far have been very good. This can be obtained free of charge by the patient's own Doctor, which I strongly recommend.

2. *Diphtheria Immunisation.*

The *free scheme* is still available so that parents and guardians could have their children *properly* immunised against the deadly disease diphtheria.

All children one to fifteen years of age (*preferably between the sixth and ninth months*) should be properly immunised against diphtheria by two injections; in addition, a "booster" dose (one)

is required in five years' time. This can be obtained *free of cost* through the parents' or guardians' own Doctor in the Surgery; also at Welfare Centres and Day Nurseries. Special Clinics are organised at schools as required. Application should be made at the Welfare Centres, Day Nurseries, Schools, or to the Public Health Department (Divisional).

Propaganda on the above has been *continuously* carried out aided by the Press and the Central Council for Health Education, etc., but still some children are found to have not been immunised.

*Parents or guardians should face up to their responsibilities and have their children properly immunised at once :*

### “PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE.”

Further research is required into the “carrier” state of many diseases with a view to providing a cure for these, but preventive measures, e.g., Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Immunisation, Smallpox Vaccination, Inoculation against Typhoid Fever and other diseases will be necessary for many years where these diseases are likely to occur or are prevalent; in addition proper hygiene and sanitation are an essential.

As already recommended (via the Press, etc.), children should be vaccinated against Smallpox soon after birth, given Whooping Cough vaccine when about 3 months old and immunised against Diphtheria at about 8 months old.

#### 3. *Care of the Blind.*

The welfare of Blind Persons was dealt with by the County Medical Officer of Health, Cheshire, under the provisions of the appropriate Act, working in conjunction with the Blind Welfare Societies, up to 5th July, 1948, and after this the same care continued under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946 (Divisional Health Committee, etc.)

#### 4. *Mental Deficiency and Special Schools for Defective Children.*

This was dealt with as required by the County Medical Officer of Health, Cheshire, and the appropriate Departments, etc., up to 5th July, 1948; after this further developments were carried out under the appropriate Acts.



5. *Ophthalmia Neonatorum.*

Cases of this disease are notified immediately to the County and local Divisional Medical Officer of Health.

6. *Prevention of Disease from Abroad.*

The Government under the appropriate Acts has a system of medical examination, etc., for those persons arriving in this country from abroad who have been in areas where serious infectious disease has occurred. All contacts are medically examined, given written and verbal instructions what to do if they feel ill, and the local Medical Officer of Health is notified of their arrival and he arranges for the necessary supervision. With the outbreaks of the serious type of smallpox abroad, *it is again strongly recommended that all infants and others should be properly vaccinated according to the law on the subject; this can be carried out free of charge through the patient's own doctor.*

7. *Notifiable Disease (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1954.*

The following table includes particulars of the incidence of notifiable disease in the area during the year 1954 :—

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total cases Diagnosed</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Hospital</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>
Meningococcal Infection	1	1	—
*Scarlet Fever .. ..	45	5	—
Diphtheria .. ..	—	—	—
Erysipelas .. ..	2	1	—
Pneumonia (Acute Primary or Influenzal) .. ..	7	—	—
Measles .. ..	279	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	16	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	1	—	—
Anterior Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis ..	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ..	—	—	—
Dysentery .. ..	4	—	—

N.B. \*Scarlet Fever—Examination of contacts ? carriers (preventive measures and treatment of these) :—

1. Attention to unhealthy throat and nose (e.g., operation for removal of unhealthy tonsils and adenoids and/or penicillin treatment).
2. Cleanliness (N.B., dust) in home, school, etc., (Frequent "spring-clean" and disinfection as required—playgrounds, etc. (*non-dusty*).)
3. Constant attention to good hygiene and sanitation *everywhere* by all concerned.

An analysis of the total notified cases under the following age groups is given below :—

Disease	Total Cases at all ages	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over
Scarlet Fever ..	45	—	—	4	1	4	31	3	1	1	—	—	—
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Pneumonia (Acute Primary or Influenzal) ..	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	3
Measles ..	279	4	15	24	30	35	169	1	—	—	—	1	—
Whooping Cough ..	16	—	2	3	3	2	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Anterior poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ..	4	—	1	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
TOTALS ..	355	4	18	31	34	41	209	4	1	2	—	7	4

The Chester and District Hospital Management Committee have informed all general practitioners that they would be responsible for the supply of diphtheria antitoxin (free) — in emergency at the Runcorn Victoria Memorial Hospital (the Matron). In addition it can be obtained at any general hospital. Supplies can also be obtained (in emergency) from any infectious disease hospital, e.g., Warrington and Davenham.

Practitioners may, if they wish, obtain a small stock from a hospital in anticipation of requirements rather than wait until they need it for a particular case (N.B.).

Stocks held by hospitals or practitioners should be returned three months before expiry date for exchange to the source of supply.

*In few diseases is prompt treatment as necessary as in diphtheria.*

*N.B. Antitoxin should be given in all suspicious cases at once, in the home or in the hospital. SWABBING IS ONLY AN AID TO DIAGNOSIS.*

Swabs were examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Birkenhead—in addition, as required, the laboratories at Chester and Warrington, free of charge (*this applies to all examinations carried out in the interest of Public Health*).



## RUNCORN RURAL DISTRICT

8. *Total Deaths, 1954.*

<i>Cause of Death</i>						<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
All Causes	...	...	...	..	...	209	201
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	3	0
2. Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
3. Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
4. Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
5. Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
6. Meningococcal infections	..	..	...	...	...	0	0
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
8. Measles	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	...	10	5
11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	5	0
12. Malignant Neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	...	0	4
13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus...	...	...	...	...	...	0	3
14. Other malignant and lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	21	11
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	0	2
16. Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	0	4
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	20	36
18. Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	...	43	18
19. Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	8	6
20. Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	23	39
21. Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	...	20	18
22. Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
23. Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	7	8
24. Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	13	10
25. Other diseases of respiratory system...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	3	4
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	...	5	0
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
31. Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	13	19
33. Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	...	2	0
34. All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...	5	7
35. Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
36. Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	...	0	0

						<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	Total	...	...	...	...	6	6
	Legitimate	...	...	...	...	6	6
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	0	0
Live Births	Total	...	...	...	...	265	228
	Legitimate	...	...	...	...	259	222
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	6	6
Stillbirths	Total	...	...	...	...	6	8
	Legitimate	...	...	...	...	6	8
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	0	0

POPULATION.....36,260 (estimated mid-year Home Population)  
 Comparability Factors.....Births 1.05; Deaths 0.92

BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY,  
 MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN  
 INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1954  
 Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns

	<i>Runcorn Rural District.</i>	<i>England and Wales.</i>
	<i>Rates per 1,000</i>	<i>Home Population</i>
<b>BIRTHS—</b>		
Live Births ... ..	13.59	15.2
Stillbirths ... ..	27.62	23.4
<b>DEATHS—</b>		
All causes ... ..	12.58	11.3
Typhoid and Paratyphoid ... ..	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough ... ..	0.00	0.03
Diphtheria ... ..	0.00	0.00
Influenza ... ..	0.00	0.04
Smallpox ... ..	0.00	0.00
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis) ... ..	0.00	0.03
Pneumonia ... ..	0.46	0.48
<b>NOTIFICATIONS (corrected)</b>		
Typhoid Fever ... ..	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever ... ..	0.00	0.02
Meningococcal Infection ... ..	0.00	0.07
Scarlet Fever ... ..	1.38	0.97
Whooping Cough ... ..	0.49	2.38
Diphtheria ... ..	0.00	0.02
Erysipelas ... ..	0.06	0.12
Smallpox ... ..	0.00	0.00
Measles ... ..	8.55	3.31
Pneumonia ... ..	0.21	0.73
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis):		
Paralytic ... ..	0.00	0.02
Non-paralytic ... ..	0.00	0.01
Food Poisoning ... ..	0.00	0.20
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	0.03	17.73
	<i>Rates per 1,000</i>	<i>Live Births</i>
<b>DEATHS—</b>		
All causes under 1 year of age ... ..	24.34	25.5
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age ... ..	0.00	0.08

## 9. Tuberculosis

No person employed in the milk trade was found suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, nor was it found necessary compulsorily to remove to hospital any person suffering from Tuberculosis.

For the prevention of this disease, the following precautions should be noted :—

A properly balanced diet, in addition early diagnosis (X-ray, etc), proper treatment, *thorough* disinfection of homes when cases go to a Sanatorium, separate rooms and utensils, frequent visits by Health Visitors, and as required by the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspectors. All new cases are specially investigated by me and reported to me as Divisional Medical Officer of Health (as required to H.M. Inspector of Factories). Close liason is kept with the Chest Physicians. Follow-up of contacts and the patients by the Health Visitor is carried out very thoroughly and action taken as required by myself and the Chest Physician (Divisional Health). The Mass X-ray Units are proving useful in detecting early cases of Tuberculosis, etc. “Specified” areas are increasing in which only heat treated or tuberculin tested milk can be sold—this is important.

Medical Officers in charge of industrial hygiene, etc., factory inspectors, form a valuable liason in preventing and ascertaining the cause of Tuberculosis (e.g., dust, working conditions, disinfections, cleanliness, etc.). The Public Health Act, 1936 (Section 287) proves useful to the Medical Officer of Health (and Sanitary Inspectors) allowing power of entry to any premises for the general purpose of the Act, in conjunction with those concerned.

*In my opinion, all milk, especially for children, should be properly heat-treated (e.g., pasteurised or sterilised); failing this, heat-treated in the home.*

*With proper veterinary control of cattle, proper housing conditions and food for the people, these, with heat-treatment of milk (e.g., pasteurisation, etc., or proper heat-treatment in the home), will help to stamp out this terrible disease. Proper heat-treatment of milk not only kills tubercle bacillus but other germs causing disease.*

A thorough disinfection (steam, etc) of the house, clothing, etc., with a *thorough* “spring-clean” of the house when a case is admitted to hospital, is *essential*. Isolation of contacts (*especially children*) is most essential and every endeavour is made to do this. B.C.G. injections are given by the Chest Physician in suitable cases. Chalets, extra beds and bedding are supplied as and when



required, via the Divisional Health Department.

Particulars of the 16 new cases of tuberculosis and of the 3 deaths from the disease in the area during 1954 :—

AGE PERIODS  Years	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1 .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-4 .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4-14 .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-24 .. ..	1(1)	1	1(1)	1	—	—	—	—
25-34 .. ..	3(2)	5(3)	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-44 .. ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-54 .. ..	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
55-64 .. ..	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 upwards .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	7	7	1	1	3	—	—	—

2 Deaths were Notified Cases.

Figures in brackets relate to cases transferred from another district.

Specimens of sputum from suspected Pulmonary Tuberculosis patients are examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Birkenhead, also Warrington and Chester Royal Infirmary laboratories.

Tuberculosis cases on register. Comparative rates :—

Year	Estimated Population	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total all Forms	No. per 1,000 of Population
		M.	F.	M.	F.		
1944	—	65	53	37	47	202	—
1945	31,710	71	53	32	41	197	6.21
1946	32,760	68	44	34	34	180	5.49
1947	32,930	60	42	29	32	163	4.95
1948	34,230	59	44	28	33	164	4.79
1949	34,550	62	37	31	34	164	4.74
1950	35,580	74	48	29	35	186	5.22
1951	35,510	79	55	25	34	193	5.43
1952	35,520	89	61	29	33	212	5.97
1953	35,800	93	67	27	30	217	6.06
1954	36,260	86	68	22	23	199	5.48

## 10. Classified Table of Cancer Deaths.

AGE	0-30		30-50		50-70		Over		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Bladder .. ..	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Breast .. ..	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	1	4
Pancreas .. ..	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	1	5
GENITAL ORGANS :									
Uterus .. ..	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	4
Prostate .. ..	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	3
Liver .. ..	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	3
Lungs .. ..	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Rectum .. ..	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	1	4
Bronchus .. ..	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	3
REMAINDER OF INTESTINAL TRACT :									
Colon .. ..	-	-	-	2	2	1	2	-	7
Oesophagus .. ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Stomach .. ..	1	-	1	-	3	2	4	4	15
Throat and Mouth .. ..	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Cancer of all other sites	-	-	1	-	2	-	2	-	5
MALE DEATHS ..	1	-	5	-	15	-	12	-	33
FEMALE DEATHS ..	-	-	-	4	-	13	-	9	26

The 59 deaths from Cancer give a rate of 1.62 per 1,000 of population or 14.39% of total number (410) deaths reported during the year.

## 11. Cancer.

Under Section 76 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, Sections 1, 2 and 6 and sub-sections (2) and (3) of Section 8 of the Cancer Act, 1939, were repealed and the responsibility for the provisions of an adequate cancer service was placed on the Minister and Regional Hospital Boards by Part II of the National Health Service Act of 1946.

Facilities for cancer diagnosis and treatment are available in all major general hospitals in the area and the radiotherapeutic work in the region is centred at the Liverpool Radium Institute. Follow-up clinics are undertaken at the Chester Royal Infirmary.

The areas of the Runcorn Rural District Council and the Runcorn Urban District Council are within the area of the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board.

## ANNUAL REPORT OF CANAL BOAT INSPECTOR 1954

In accordance with Section 249 (3) of the Public Health Act, 1936, I beg to report as follows :—

No canal boats were inspected during the year 1954.

Several visits were made to the canals, but as reported in recent years, road transport has superseded canal transport, as regards wharves in this district. A few boats continue to pass through the district.



## IMPORTANT

### THE COMMON SENSE PREVENTIVE MEASURES AGAINST DISEASE

- (1) CLEANLINESS. (a) This *must* be thorough in or around the house, kitchen, shop, larder, etc. (This also applies to feeding bottles and teats.) WHY? Where these are *absolutely* clean there are few, if any, disease germs. Feeding bottles and teats *must* be thoroughly washed and boiled prior to use. If in doubt ask your Public Health Department, Welfare Centre, Health Visitor, or District Nurse.

(b) This also applies to those who handle and cook food, especially the hands and nails.

WHY? Dirt (with disease germs) may be on the hands or *under the nails* and so spread disease germs to food; *always* thoroughly wash the hands and *clean under the nails* after using the lavatory.

- (2) DESTRUCTION OF FLIES, RATS AND MICE.

(a) FLIES : Any dirt, faeces, manure, etc., in *which flies breed* must be disposed of quickly and thoroughly (burying and *well covering* these with earth is one of the best ways). Flies should be destroyed by, e.g., fly sprays, fly swats, fly papers, etc., and food larders, pail closets, and bins *must* be fly proof. Food *must* be protected from dust, dirt, flies, rats and mice, and kept in a cool well ventilated place. Disinfectant solution *must* be used to cover contents in pail closets.

WHY? Flies carry disease germs (in and on their bodies) from all kinds of dirt to food, and so spread diseases.

(b) RATS AND MICE : For the destruction of these ask your chemist; failing this your Sanitary Inspector (who is also the Rodent Officer).

WHY? Rats and mice breed in all kinds of dirt, and like flies carry disease germs to food (and water).

- (3) FOOD : should be *properly* heat treated, this applies especially to the manufacture of ice cream, the cooking of shell-fish, and the pasteurisation and sterilization of milk. Where milk is not pasteurised or sterilized I recommend that this is boiled at home.

WHY? By proper heat treatment, any disease germs present are destroyed. This applies to all kinds of food, including ice cream, shell-fish and milk.

- (4) WATERCRESS must be obtained from properly controlled beds, that is, where pure water is supplied; *this with lettuce and fruits* without a fairly thick outside coat, should be thoroughly washed in a weak Condyl's solution and then rinsed with pure water before being eaten.

WHY? Watercress can carry disease germs on it; this also applies to lettuce and fruit.

- (5) DRIED EGGS AND DRIED MILK must be kept in a cool place, and when the package is opened it should be used up quickly.

WHY? These are good foods, but if the containers are left open to the air too long (e.g. over two days) germs can grow in them and so spread disease.

- (6) ALL WATER FOR DRINKING, DIETIC OR DAIRY PURPOSES should be from a pure supply; if in doubt as to its purity, boil it well for small quantities, or chlorinate it for large quantities, see instructions on bottles obtainable from most Chemists. Do NOT BATHE IN RIVERS, etc., which may be sewage polluted.

WHY? Water, if impure, can have disease germs in it; boiling or chlorination kills disease germs. If you bathe in rivers, canals, etc., which may be sewage polluted, you may swallow disease germs.

- (7) CONSTIPATION. This *must* be avoided, for example, by eating sufficient roughage food, e.g., whole-meal bread and vegetables also by keeping the stomach muscles strong and healthy by games and P.T. exercises. If in doubt see your own Doctor. Many diseases might be traced to chronic constipation.

WHY? If constipated foul matter remains too long in the lower bowel so poisoning the blood and also holding disease germs in the bowel which may infect the body.

- (8) OBESITY—(Over-weight). How can this be the cause of many serious diseases and can shorten life..

WHY? By "clogging up" of the blood vessels, the various organs of the body, disease can commence.

By eating *less* at *each* meal, with *more variety* and taking, for example, milk or a few sweets *between* meals, less fat, etc., will enter the body. *Moderate, regular* daily exercise, for example, a walk, will help to "Burn up" fat.

Guard against constipation. If in doubt see your own Doctor.

- (9) TO AVOID SPREADING "COLDS IN THE HEAD", INFLUENZA, etc., Use a handkerchief when you cough or sneeze.

WHY? A handkerchief acts as a screen and so catches disease germs from the nose and throat, disinfect and boil handkerchiefs well prior to washing. Wet feet, wet clothes, and draughts cause chilling of the body and so render it more liable to disease.

- (10) COVERING UP THE MOUTH WHEN COUGHING OR SNEEZING. Coughing or sneezing on *food*, for example, after Influenza, etc., may cause a serious attack of e.g., enteritis, diarrhoea, etc., especially in babies and young children.

WHY? Because germs causing *serious* disease enter on or into food . . . DO NOT COUGH OR SNEEZE onto food; cover the mouth and nose with a handkerchief or etc., See your own Doctor as required for treatment.

- (11) ALLERGIC DISEASES. The diseases for example, Migraine, Hay-Fever, Asthma, some types of Eczema (especially in children) due to allergy, cause much *unnecessary* suffering; by seeing a Doctor. (tests, etc.,) many of these can be cured or relieved; this also applies to contact "Dermatitis".



- (12) PROTECTIVE INJECTIONS AGAINST DIPHTHERIA, SMALLPOX, etc., See that all (especially young children) have these as required.

WHY? By these injections the body is more fully protected against dangerous diseases. If in doubt ask your own Doctor, Medical Officer of Health, Welfare Centre, Health Visitor, or District Nurse.

- (13) PROPER DISINFECTION OF HOUSES, etc., After any serious disease in a house etc., see that this is carried out (ask your Public Health Department, Sanitary Inspector). ALSO A THOROUGH "Spring Cleaning" the latter would be sufficient in less serious diseases such as Influenza, Measles and Whooping Cough.

WHY? By this, disease germs are destroyed or washed away and so cannot infect others.

- (14) ISOLATION OF CONTACTS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE. Carry out thoroughly what is recommended on the special pamphlet issued by the Medical Officer of Health when patients are sent to Hospital or Nursed at Home.

WHY? By so doing disease germs are less likely to spread. If in doubt ask your own Doctor or Public Health Department (e.g. your Sanitary Inspector). *This also applies to any sick animals* (indoors or outdoors); if in doubt call in a Veterinary Officer.

- (15) DEFECTIVE TEETH. See your Dentist if your teeth are bad or septic; better still see him as a routine every 6 months.

WHY? If your teeth are bad or septic the chewing powers are not good and so all kinds of indigestion may arise. Septic teeth (and gums) lead to poisoning of the blood and so to various diseases.

- (16) THE PREVENTIVE FOODS. Eat some of these daily in your daily diet, which MUST be properly cooked, varied AND flavoured.

WHY? The preventive foods (i.e., those which help the body to prevent disease) are :—

Milk and eggs (dried or ordinary);

Cheese;

Fresh vegetables and fruit (cooked or in salads);

Animal fats e.g. fish (especially herrings) and butter;

Margarine (vitamised).

These all contain valuable substances called VITAMINS which are ESSENTIAL to good health. If in doubt ask, e.g. your Health Visitor or School Teacher, failing this your Doctor.

*When the above cannot be obtained*, various additional vitamins, e.g. Rose Hip Juice (vitamin C), vitamin C tablets, Wheatgerm (vitamin B), Cod and Halibut Liver Oil (vitamins A and D) and other vitamins can be obtained from your own Doctor if he agrees these are required. They can also be bought at the various Chemists and Shops. Without the proper amount of vitamins taken daily, the body is more open to attack by disease germs.

## GENERAL

- (1) Anyone feeling ill should see their own doctor (better still, as a routine, see him once a year)—though with the above common-sense precautions there should be little danger of contacting or spreading disease.



- (2) ASK FOR MORE OF THESE PAMPHLETS AS REQUIRED FROM YOUR MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH. Have discussion groups, lectures and films on health education. Attend the official classes on personal hygiene given by e.g., the Red Cross Society, St. John Association, Scouts and Girl Guides—these organisations have excellent little books on the subject. Always carry out these common-sense preventive measures and *tell others about them*.
- (3) Good health mostly depends on YOU—your co-operation is essential.

“WHERE THERE IS DIRT THERE IS DISEASE”

E. N. HILLMAN GRAY, L.R.C.P.&S., L.M., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health, Runcorn Urban & Rural Districts.

Divisional Medical Officer and School Medical Officer.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENTS :

1. *Town Hall, Runcorn.*
2. *Castle Park, Frodsham.*

N.B. PLEASE KEEP THIS PAMPHLET FOR EASY REFERENCE

*Appendix "B"*

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

RUNCORN DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR  
1954

By the

DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Presented to the  
Runcorn Divisional Health Committee  
15th March, 1955

MEMBERS OF THE  
RUNCORN DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

---

*Chairman :*  
COUNCILLOR W. S. HUXTABLE

*Deputy Chairman :*  
COUNCILLOR W. H. STUBBS

*Representatives of Local Health Authority :*

County Alderman G. ASTBURY,	Chairman, County Health Committee.
County Councillor A. WHITLEY,	Vice-Chairman, County Health Committee.
Alderman W. GITTINS,	County Councillor R. E. PAYTON,
Alderman W. A. GIBSON,	County Councillor Miss M. J. PREECE.
County Councillor A. E. MOORS,	

*Runcorn Rural District Council Representatives :*

Councillor D. L. DAVIES	Councillor J. W. KIRKHAM
„ Mrs. T. A. GLOVER	„ T. L. LOOKER
„ Mrs. A. HALL	„ Mrs. E. STANSFIELD
„ J. HUNT	„ G. S. WALLWORTH
„ H. JACKSON	

*Runcorn Urban District Council Representatives :*

Councillor G. GOODIER	Councillor T. B. SHALLCROSS
„ C. J. HELSBY	„ H. A. THOMAS
„ S. HOLT	„ A. WOOD
„ T. H. LEATHER	

*Co-opted Members*

Dr. C. E. W. BOWER, Local Medical Committee for the County Palatine of Chester.  
Dr. E. WARDLE, National Health Service, Local Dental Committee.  
Mrs. W. HILL, Cheshire County Nursing Association.  
Mrs. C. EVANS  
Mrs. E. A. ROYLE  
Mr. J. D. WHITLEY

*Officers :*

*Clerk to the Committee :* Mr. T. J. LEWIS  
*Divisional Medical Officer :* E. N. HILLMAN GRAY, L.R.C.P. & S., L.M., D.P.H.



CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
RUNCORN DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR 1954

INTRODUCTION

TO : THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
RUNCORN DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE :

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present this my Annual Report dealing with those portions of the Sections of Part 111 of the National Health Act, 1946, for which this Committee is responsible.

As in previous years the report is sub-divided into the various sections of the Act and gives details of the work carried out during the year.

The Welfare Centres in the Division have been well attended and at the Day Nursery there has been an increase of 3 in the average daily attendance, as compared with the previous year.

On the 28th June 1954 the work of distributing Welfare Foods to the priority classes was transferred from the Ministry of Food to the Local Health Authority, and this Committee became responsible for making arrangements for the distribution throughout the Division. As far as possible the centres previously manned by the Ministry of Food were taken over, and every effort was made to give to the public a service as efficient as had been provided by the Ministry of Food. Despite the short time available, with the aid of the voluntary and paid staff, a smooth change-over was effected. Requests were received from the public for distribution points in Weston and Weston Point, and these were arranged at the Post Offices.

The Committee on their annual inspection of County owned and rented property in the Division, considered all matters requiring attention.

Since the formation of the Divisional Health Committee, every effort has been made to form a permanent Ambulance Service for

the Division. To enable this to be done it was necessary to obtain a suitable building to house the vehicles and staff, and early in the year the County Council purchased the Manse Garage, 36 Halton Road, Runcorn, for an Ambulance Station. It was intended to carry out the necessary repairs and adaptations to the building before operating the permanent ambulance service from the premises, but certain difficulties necessitated the Committee taking over the operation of the ambulances at very short notice. Although many difficulties arose due to the sudden change over, with the co-operation of all concerned, these were surmounted and an efficient service maintained. With the supply of two clinic ambulances to the Depot, the bulk of the sitting case work was taken over from the contractors. Another such vehicle would add to efficiency and economy. This has been recommended to the Cheshire County Council, but they have given instructions that no such vehicle will be supplied, and all necessary work should be given to contractors.

Every effort has been made during the year to give publicity to the need for vaccination against smallpox and immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough.

The scheme of B.C.G. Vaccination was extended during the year to cover school leavers throughout the Country, and I give details in the report of the schools visited and the number of B.C.G. Vaccinations given.

The demand on the domestic help service increased during the year on account of the number of aged persons requiring the services of a domestic help whose need for help continues indefinitely. Although the number of cases supplied with help was one less than in 1953, the hours worked by helps increased on account of the number of protracted cases on the register. In view of the demand on the Hospital Authorities for admission of chronic sick patients to hospital, this service is most valuable in helping to look after the old people in their homes for as long as is possible.

My thanks are due to the Chairman and Members of the Divisional Health Committee for their support and help to me on all occasions.

The co-operation and assistance of the County Medical Officer and his staff, the Clerk to the Divisional Health Committee, and also the staff in my Divisional Health Office, has been greatly appreciated by me in the carrying out of my various duties.

I beg to remain,

Town Hall, RUNCORN. Your obedient Servant,

March, 1955.

E. N. HILLMAN GRAY.



## SECTION 22

### CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

There are seven Welfare Centres in the Division, three of which are held in County owned premises (Runcorn, Frodsham and Stockton Heath) and four of which are held in premises rented by the County Council for the actual sessions (Antrobus, Grappenhall, Helsby and Kingsley).

The Infant Welfare Centres are as follows :

ANTROBUS—Parish Hall—First and third Wednesdays of each month at 2.0 p.m.

FRODSHAM—Welfare Centre, Chapel-on-the-Rock—Alternate Tuesdays at 2.0 p.m.

GRAPPENHALL—Methodist Sunday School—Tuesdays at 2.0 p.m.

HELSEBY—British Insulated Callenders' Cable Works Recreation Room—Alternate Tuesdays at 2.0 p.m.

KINGSLEY—Hurst Chapel—Second and fourth Wednesdays at 2.0 p.m.

RUNCORN—Welfare Centre, Halton Road—Wednesdays 10 a.m. and 2.0 p.m.

STOCKTON HEATH—Welfare Centre, 65, Whitefield Road—Mondays 2.0 p.m.

In addition to Infant Welfare Clinics, Orthopaedic, Ophthalmic, Dental and Minor Ailments Clinics are held at the Frodsham, Runcorn and Stockton Heath Centres during the month, and at Runcorn, Ante- and Post-Natal Clinics are also held each Thursday at 10.0 a.m., a Toddlers Clinic on the second Monday of the month, and Physiotherapy and Speech Therapy Clinics are held during the month.

During the year, consideration was given to the opening of a Welfare Centre for the Weston and Weston Point areas, and it was agreed to hold a Child Welfare Clinic in the Conservative Hall, Weston Point, early in the New Year.

The Committee inspected the Welfare Centres at Frodsham, Runcorn and Stockton Heath, and the Day Nursery, Runcorn, on the annual inspection of County owned and rented properties, and attention was given to alterations, repairs and replacements required. The Committee recommended that the gardens to the new Welfare Centre at Runcorn should be properly laid out and maintained.



## Day Nursery.

There is one Day Nursery in the Division, situated in Okell Street, Runcorn.

During the year the average daily attendance of the Nursery increased by 3.

Attendances at the various clinics held at the Welfare Centres, and for the Day Nursery, are given in the following tables :—

### A. MOTHERS' CLINICS :

	<i>New Cases</i>	<i>Total Attendances</i>
Ante-Natal ... ..	185	725
Post-Natal ... ..	3	3
Dental :		
Pre-Natal ... ..	13	30
Nursing Mothers ... ..	9	25
Dentures supplied ... ..		9

### B. YOUNG CHILDREN'S CLINICS :

(i) <i>Infant Welfare</i>	<i>New Cases</i>	<i>Total Att</i>
To 1 year ... ..	572	5709
1 to 2 years ... ..	—	1074
2 to 5 years ... ..	—	725
(ii) <i>Specialist</i>		
Ophthalmic (under 5) ...	22	52
Dental treatment (under 5 )	35	41

### B. (i) WELFARE CENTRES :

	<i>New Cases</i>	<i>Total Attendances</i>		
	0-1	0-1	1-2	2-5
Antrobus .. ..	10	124	87	91
Frodsham .. ..	40	433	128	84
Grappenhall .. ..	100	1,187	147	64
Helsby .. ..	35	445	107	136
Kingsley .. ..	19	175	30	86
Runcorn .. ..	242	2,242	455	240
Stockton Heath .. ..	126	1,103	120	24
TOTALS .. ..	572	5,709	1,074	725

B. (ii) OPHTHALMIC CLINICS :

	<i>New Cases</i>	<i>Total Att.</i>
Frodsham ... ..	3	6
Runcorn ... ..	9	25
Stockton Heath ... ..	10	21
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals ...	22	52
	<hr/>	<hr/>

(iii) DAY NURSERY, RUNCORN

	<i>Average No. Attending</i>	<i>Total Attendances</i>
Aged 0 — 2 years ... ..	7	1743
2 — 5 years ... ..	16	3818

SALE OF WELFARE FOODS

The sale of proprietary brands of Welfare Foods at the Antrobus, Kingsley and Runcorn Clinics is carried out through my office. During the year the total sales amounted to £664 16s. 2d. The foods are sold to mothers using the clinics at cost price plus 10%.

At the Frodsham, Helsby, Grappenhall and Stockton Heath Clinics, the sale of Welfare Foods is carried out by Voluntary Societies.

DISTRIBUTION OF WELFARE FOODS

On the 28th June, 1954, the distribution scheme for Welfare Foods was transferred from the Ministry of Labour and National Service to the Divisional Health Committee. Arrangements were made for accommodation to be made available at 36 Halton Road, Runcorn, for the distribution of these foods and the selling points in the Division were also taken over. Two clerks were appointed to the Divisional Health Staff to assist in this work.

The following are details of the distribution points and commodities sold during the period 28th June, 1954 to 31st December, 1954 :

Centre	Commodities				
	N.D. Milk	Half Cream	Cod Liver Oil	A. & D. Capsules	Orange Juice
Runcorn ..	7,228	276	1,638	440	5,823
Antrobus ..	113	—	70	9	196
Frodsham ..	1,424	72	366	102	1,654
Grappenhall ..	489	—	231	58	1,062
Halton ..	206	—	104	5	350
Helsby ..	580	46	182	37	770
Kingsley ..	103	—	44	14	203
Norley ..	135	—	56	2	244
Preston Brook ..	95	—	45	3	181
Stockton Heath	684	11	230	58	812
Sutton Weaver ..	35	—	18	4	86
Thelwall ..	76	—	18	2	67
* Weston ..	297	—	43	7	234
* Weston Point ..	716	—	97	17	404
Whitley ..	227	4	35	13	197
TOTAL ISSUES ..	12,408	409	3,177	771	12,283
* These Centres were opened on 1st August, 1954.					
Issues to Institutions ..	112	—	144	—	312
TOTALS FOR DIVISION ..	12,520	409	3,321	771	12,595

### SECTION 23—MIDWIFERY

Under this section the Committee are responsible for : :—

- (i) Provision, where necessary, of accommodation for midwives and the maintenance, repair and alterations required for such premises.
- (ii) Provision of transport for midwives where necessary in cases of emergency.

Apart from the Midwives residing in No. 10 Stanley Villas, and No. 30 Heath Road Crescent, Runcorn, all other County Midwives in the Divisions reside in property under arrangements made by themselves, and for which this Committee have no responsibility with regard to repairs, etc.

During the year the Committee inspected No. 10 Stanley Villas and No. 30 Heath Road Crescent, Runcorn, and repairs requiring attention were dealt with.

Transport and medical requisites were provided as and when required.

Midwives do excellent work as required in the homes of the people.



## SECTION 24—HEALTH VISITING

The Committee are also responsible for housing accommodation for Health Visitors, but during the year all Health Visitors in the Division resided in property under arrangements made by themselves and for which this Committee have no responsibility with regard to repairs, etc.

I must congratulate all the Health Visitors in the Division for their excellent work in the various clinics but especially in the homes of the people, dealing with the problems of young, old, etc. They have many important duties to carry out.

## SECTION 25—HOME NURSING

With the exception of the two District Nurses in Runcorn and one District Nurse/Midwife at Budworth who reside in properties under arrangements made by themselves and for which this Committee have no responsibility, the remainder now reside in County Owned or rented property.

The Committee inspected all County owned or rented property in the Division, and action was taken regarding any alterations, repairs or renewals requiring attention. During the year garages were erected at the Nurses Homes at 68 Mill Lane, Stockton Heath and No. 3 Beverley Avenue, Appleton.

The District Nurses carry out very good work in the homes of the people.

## SECTION 26—VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Every effort has again been made during the year to bring to the notice of parents and guardians the necessity of having their children vaccinated against smallpox and immunised against diphtheria and whooping cough.

A register is maintained of all births in the Division and if a record is not received that a child has been vaccinated at the age of 6 months, a letter is sent to the parents strongly advising them to have their child vaccinated. A similar course is also taken regarding immunisation when a child is one year of age, in the case of those in whom immunity has not been carried out at 6-9 months.

In addition, publicity has been given to this subject by posters, periodic advertisements in the local press, and the health visitors have discussed the question with mothers when making their home visits.

Special immunisation sessions were held by me at schools in the Division, 137 children being given primary injections, and 467 reinforcing injections.

The figures set out in the following tables, compiled from record cards received from medical practitioners show the number of

vaccinations and immunisations carried out during the year. For comparison purposes the figures for the previous year are also given from which it will be noted that more children were immunised against diphtheria and whooping cough during the year.

#### VACCINATION—

		<i>Welfare Centres</i>	<i>Doctor's Surgery</i>	<i>Patient's Homes</i>	<i>Total</i>
Primary	1954	93	321	84	498
	1953	92	304	90	486
Re-vaccination	1954	1	61	5	67
	1953	—	108	18	126

#### IMMUNISATION—PRIMARY.

		<i>Welfare Centres</i>	<i>Doctor's Surgery</i>	<i>Patient's Home</i>	<i>School Clinics</i>	<i>Total</i>
Diphtheria	1954	15	114	28	137	294
	1953	58	138	31	152	379
Whooping Cough	1954	15	6	4	—	25
	1953	1	29	7	—	43
Combined Whooping Cough/ Diphtheria	1954	161	399	39	—	599
	1953	93	300	24	—	417

#### IMMUNISATION—REINFORCING INJECTIONS.

Diphtheria	1954	32	140	36	467	675
	1953	20	77	13	630	740
Whooping Cough	1954	—	2	—	—	2
	1953	—	2	1	—	3
Combined Whooping Cough/ Diphtheria	1954	4	40	1	—	45
	1953	—	32	6	—	38

#### SECTION 27—AMBULANCE AND TRANSPORT SERVICE

Since the formation of the Divisional Health Scheme in 1948, every effort has been made by the Committee to obtain suit-

able premises for the formation of a permanent ambulance service for the Division.

Early in the year under review the County Council purchased the premises known as the Manse Garage, 36 Halton Road, Runcorn for the purposes of an Ambulance Station.

It was intended to complete the necessary alterations and adaptations to the buildings before occupying the premises, but in view of staffing difficulties which arose with the Ambulance Contractor carrying out the work in the Division, it was necessary for the Committee to take over all the ambulance journeys at very short notice, and on the 26th April, 1954, the ambulance service for stretcher cases only was operated from the new premises. Three ambulances were provided and six Driver/Attendants were appointed to man the vehicles. Despite the difficulties encountered in this sudden change over, the new service ran extremely well.

In August the County Council supplied to the Division two clinic ambulances for the conveyance of sitting cases to Hospitals . The necessary ambulance personnel were appointed to complete the establishment for our permanent service, and all ambulance work was transferred from contractors to our own Depot. (See my remarks in my introduction).

Details of journeys made during the year as compared with the previous twelve months are as follows :—

	<i>Journeys</i>	<i>Patients</i>	<i>Emergencies</i>	<i>Mileage</i>
<i>Ambulance Journeys</i>				
1954	1,560	2,885	801	43,316
1953	949	1,122	761	26,691
<i>Sitting Case Journeys</i>				
1954	5,141	8,060	963	128,229
1953	6,731	8,678	1,547	152,453
<i>Total all Journeys</i>				
1954	6,701	10,945	1,764	171,545
1953	7,680	9,800	2,308	179,144
Increase	—	1,145	—	—
Decrease	979	—	544	7,599

It is interesting to note that although there was an increase of 1,145 patients conveyed to hospital during the year, there was a decrease of 979 journeys and 7,599 miles in the mileage for the year. This was due to the co-ordination of journeys and the use of the



clinic ambulances in which it is possible to carry up to six sitting cases, or one stretcher case and three sitting cases. As these vehicles only came into operation in August, a greater saving in the number of journey and milage should be shown in the figures for the following year.

The majority of patients in the Division requiring transport attend hospitals in Chester, Liverpool and Warrington, and the average mileage per journey for the year was 25.6 compared with 23.33 for the previous year.

The arrangements between the County Council and the Warrington Corporation, whereby the latter supplied ambulances for the conveyance of non-infectious cases from Stockton Heath and the surrounding districts and infectious disease cases throughout the area of the Division being admitted to the Warrington Isolation Hospital, were continued during the year.

For patients travelling a considerable distance, where practicable arrangements were made for them to travel by rail, an ambulance being supplied for the conveyance of the patient from his/her home to the nearest railway station, and arrangements made with the distant authority for an ambulance to meet the train on arrival to convey the patient to his/her destination.

During the year three such journeys were arranged, two to the London area and one to the Birmingham area.

## SECTION 28

### PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

#### *Tuberculosis*

The Health Visitors were informed of all new cases and asked to visit and complete the environmental report sheet, and where the contacts of the patients had not attended the Chest Clinic for examination, they were advised to do so.

On receipt of the completed report sheets, these were carefully investigated by me, and where the housing conditions of the patients were such that it was advisable that they should be re-housed, the question was taken up with the Housing Department of the Urban and Rural District Councils, and I am pleased to be able to report that both Councils gave their sympathetic consideration to the re-housing of these cases, and in a large number of cases they were able to re-house the families. Where the housing accommodation

was adequate, the patients were strongly advised to occupy separate bedrooms, and in all cases advice was given on the precautions to be taken to prevent the spread of infection. Advice was also given to patients on how to obtain extra nourishment and assistance.

In all cases, enquiries were made to see whether it was possible to find the cause of infection.

The Chest Physicians at the Runcorn and Warrington Chest Clinics tested the child contacts of cases, and during the year 31 B.C.G. Vaccinations were given in this connection.

When patients were admitted to Hospital, arrangements were made for a full disinfection of the premises to be carried out.

During the year a careful check was made with the Chest Physicians of all patients whose names appear on my Tuberculosis Register and after examination, it was possible to remove a number of patient's names from such register.

Details of cases during the period 1st January to 31st December 1954 are as follows :—

	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	
(a) Total number of cases on register—					
1st January, 1954 ..	165	130	45	45	383
31st December, 1954 ..	153	121	26	29	329
(b) Removals from register, 1st January to 31st December, 1954—					
Died .. ..	9	1	—	—	10
Left district .. ..	7	7	1	1	16
Recovered .. ..	8	12	19	13	52
Lost sight of .. ..	1	—	—	2	3
	25	20	20	16	81
(c) Number of notifications received, 1st January to 31st December, 1954— ..					
New cases .. ..	9	6	1	1	17
Transfers .. ..	3	5	—	1	9
Restored to register ..	1	—	—	—	1
	13	11	1	2	27

### *B.C.G. Vaccination*

During the year the Local Health Authority made arrangements to offer B.C.G. Vaccination, subject to the necessary preliminary tests and to obtaining parental consent, to school children between their thirteenth and fourteenth birthdays.

A start was made in three Divisions in the County, in the first place to assess Medical Officers', Nurses' and Clerical time required, to find out the best means of arriving at a satisfactory routine procedure and to accumulate experience, this Division being one of those selected.

It was necessary to obtain extra clerical assistance for this work, and one part-time Clerk was appointed.

From the commencement of the scheme to 31st December 1954, the following schools were visited and a total of 305 pupils were given B.C.G. Vaccinations :—

Balfour Road Secondary Modern School, Runcorn.  
Holy Trinity C. of E. School, Runcorn.  
Parish C. of E. School, Runcorn.  
St. Edwards R.C. School, Runcorn.  
Helsby Grammar School.  
Secondary Modern School, Helsby.  
Secondary Modern School, Kingsley.

A good response was obtained from the parents of the pupils in the age group concerned, about 80% agreeing to their children being tested, and, if necessary, given B.C.G. Vaccination.

### *Care of the Aged.*

The care and after-care of old people living on their own has continued to be a most difficult problem, but in conjunction with General Practitioners and Health Visitors, assistance has been given to have cases admitted to a suitable hospital or home for the aged, and where this has not been possible, the provision of a domestic help and a visit by the District Nurse.

Whenever there are relations and friends, contact is made with them, if required, so that they can be reminded of their responsibility in the care of the old people and more help could and should be given by the relatives in many cases.

As previously mentioned, patients are encouraged to arrange for someone to live in whenever possible and practicable.



The "Over 60" Club in Runcorn, and the "Darby and Joan" Club in Frodsham do very good work in the care of old people, and their work could, with advantage, be copied elsewhere in the Division. In addition, Women's Institutes, Townswomen's Guilds and Church organisations take an interest in old people's Welfare, working in conjunction with ward and parish councils.

The Central Council of Social Service, Warrington, has arranged for their voluntary assistants to visit old people living on their own in the Runcorn and Stockton Heath districts. They visit the old people at regular intervals and take books, periodicals, etc., and assist them in any way possible.

Lists of old people in the Division have been requested from the appropriate Ministry, and when these are received, and kept up-to-date, this most important service can be extended. The volunteers visiting old people and/or disabled have carried out very good work with discretion.

Much valuable assistance has been given to the old people by these voluntary workers.

It is understood that higher authority are considering the nutritional need of old people, taking into consideration the cost of living etc.

#### *Loan of Nursing Equipment.*

Supplies of nursing equipment, apparatus, etc. are available for loan to patients from stocks supplied to district nurses in accordance with the scale agreed to by the Cheshire County Council and my Committee. A reserve stock is also kept at my Divisional Office.

A patient borrowing equipment under the above heading is required to pay a deposit, which is refunded when the article is returned in good condition.

There has been a steady demand for this equipment during the year, and this service is much appreciated by those concerned.

#### *Convalescent Home Treatment.*

The Committee has power to send persons in need of rest but not nursing care, to convalescent homes. During the year only one application was received and arrangements were made for the patient to be admitted to the Women's Convalescent Home, Llandudno, for a period of two weeks.

The patients are required to pay towards the cost of their stay in these homes, according to the scale laid down by the County Council. The full cost is usually beyond the means of most cases.

In view of the special circumstances of the above case, the Committee decided that no charge should be made on the patient.

### *Handicapped Persons.*

A Register of Handicapped Persons is kept in my office and the patients are visited by the health visitors to ascertain what assistance can be given to these persons, working in conjunction with the various voluntary societies, etc.

### *Home Occupation.*

In a few cases, where patients are suffering from prolonged disability, resultant upon injury or sickness, arrangements have been made, in conjunction with the Chest Physicians and/or the patient's medical practitioner, and the British Red Cross Society, for the supply of materials and apparatus for home occupation.

The patients have found great interest in the work and a new pleasure in life.

Some health visitors have given the greatest assistance to me in this important matter.

It is hoped to increase this service during 1955 for cases requiring occupational therapy in the home, via health visitors, etc., especially for tuberculous cases.

### *Health Education.*

Copies of my pamphlet "Commonsense Preventive Measures Against Disease" have been widely distributed throughout the Division, and posters on health education matters have been forwarded to shops, etc., for display.

Pamphlets are also left at homes where there are cases of infectious disease, giving details of the precautions to be taken to avoid the spread of infection.

### *Cancer Research.*

The detailed enquiry into Cancer incidence and pathogenesis which is being conducted by Dr. Percy Stocks, on behalf of the British Empire Cancer Campaign, has continued during the year.

The Health Visitors are supplied with comprehensive enquiry forms for all deaths from cancer, of residents in the Division. In certain cases the Sanitary Inspectors are asked to take soil samples and complete report sheets on same.

During the year enquiries into 107 cases were made.

It is hoped, through these enquiries, to trace hitherto unsuspected sources of one of the greatest causes of death today.

The assistance of health visitors and Sanitary Inspectors has been greatly appreciated.



## SECTION 29 — DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

The number of domestic helps employed at 31st December 1954 was 31.

Although the number of cases provided with domestic helps during the year was 145 as against 146 for the previous year, the demand on the service greatly increased on account of the large number of cases of aged persons requiring the services of a domestic help, an increase of 21 on the previous year.

Domestic Helps are provided for confinement cases and cases of other illness, for an average period of two weeks, whereas with the aged persons group, the need for the weekly supply of help continues for many months.

As the population of aged persons is increasing each year, the demand on this service will also increase.

So far, owing to economy, but especially the non-availability of these, the "Sitter-In" service (night) has not functioned. In some cases, relations or friends provide this service.

Most old people do not wish to enter Hospital or Homes for the Aged, but to remain in their own homes as long as possible, and every effort is made, with the aid of this service and additional help from the relatives and neighbours, visits by members of voluntary societies, and, when necessary, visits by the District Nurse, to make this possible. This action also helps to relieve the heavy demands on hospital authorities for this type of patient.

The following table shows the types of case supplied with help during 1953 and 1954 :

Year :	Confinement Cases	Tuberculosis Cases	Aged Persons	Cases of Other Illness
1954	19	3	89	34
1953	33	2	68	43

All applications for the service of domestic helps were carefully investigated. The health visitors visited all applicants to make full enquiries as to the need for help, and also to enquire whether it was possible for arrangements to be made for relatives to assist, or for someone to live in, in the case of old people living alone, and only where neither of these arrangements were possible, and it was in the interests of the health of the patients that help was provided, were the services of a domestic help supplied.

All protracted cases were re-visited at regular intervals to ascertain whether conditions were such that the services of a domestic help could be discontinued, or the number of hours per week the help was supplied reduced, but this was only possible in very few cases, and in certain cases it was necessary to increase



the number of hours per week help was supplied, due to the deterioration of the condition of the patient.

At 31st December 1954 there were 73 protracted cases remaining on the register, an increase of 24 on the previous year.

The service is not free to patients but subject to the County Council Scale of Assessment.

Where any hardship is claimed after the assessment, the case is referred to the Divisional Health Committee, for their decision in the matter. During the year three cases were submitted to the Committee for consideration, and reductions made in all three cases.



